



**PATENT APPLICATION**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Tosuke KAWADA et al.

Group Art Unit: 3651

Application No.: 10/003,086

Examiner: K. Tran

Filed: December 6, 2001

Docket No.: 111258

For: VARIABLE-WIDTH SUBSTRATE CONVEYOR, METHOD OF CHANGING WIDTH OF THE SAME, AND METHOD OF MATCHING WIDTHS OF TWO ADJACENT SUBSTRATE CONVEYORS

**REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the February 17, 2004 Office Action, reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Claims 1-27 are pending in the application. Applicants gratefully acknowledge that the Office Action indicates that claims 14-27 are allowed, and claims 3-5 and 8 include allowable subject matter.

**I. The Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter**

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 6, 7 and 9-13 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,460,692 to Dionne et al. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action uses Dionne as a basis for a §102(e) rejection. However, Dionne does not qualify as a §102(e) reference because the December 8, 2000 filing date of Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-374934, from which the present application claims priority,

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predates the December 22, 2000 U.S. filing date of Dionne. Therefore, Dionne is disqualified as "prior art" under §102(e). A Verified English Translation of JP 2000-374934 is attached. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is respectfully requested.

**II. Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-13 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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JAO:HNM/cfr

Attachment:  
English Translation of JP 2000-374934

Date: April 27, 2004

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